

Subject: Marina's Family

I got this one from NARA a week or so ago. It was declassified in full in September of 1995. Marina's family associations are not my strong suit, so I thought maybe someone in the group would have some thoughts on this. If nothing else, this taught me a lot more about how out of date the RIFs are that we look at on the NARA web site (in comparison to the actual RIFs they send out with the documents)

FBI
124-10169-10068
HQ
105-82555-3578
05/06/64

quote on
May 6, 1964
Airtel

To: SACs Dallas (100-10461)
2 - WFO (105-37111)
From: Director, FBI (105-82555)
PERSONAL ATTENTION
LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS-R-CUBA

Bureau Informant 200, a most sensitive and reliable source, advised that Irina Alekseyevna Mikhaylovich of 43 Dzerzhinskiy Street, Apartment 4, Kharkov, USSR, was in contact with Captain Donald L. Burt and Mrs. Lydia Burt, General Delivery, Fort Lee, Virginia, during August, 1958.

The foregoing and the following information obtained from Bureau Informant 200 is not to be disseminated outside the Bureau and should not be set out in any investigative report. Information from this informant should be utilized for lead purposes only and any statement concerning the coverage in effect in this instance must be avoided. Under no circumstance should any unauthorized person become aware that we have knowledge of the above-mentioned contact.

According to the informant, Mikhaylovich referred to Captain Burt as Dan, Mrs. Burt as Lidochka and Lida, and spoke of Meri, Yuliyen, and Dayen (perhaps the children of Captain and Mrs. Burt). Mikhaylovich mentioned that Vava, Marina, and Olechka were at her place on 8/20/58 and that it was Olechka's fifth birthday. She also stated that she was born 5/5/94. She said that Vava and Marina help her each month with money and that Marusya and Olya are often at her home and help her with money. She indicated she was Mrs. Burt's mother.

On 4/29/64, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Nix, Jr., Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence Department of the Army, advised that Captain Donald L. Burt, Army Serial Number 0-74654, was the husband of Lydia Burt. Lydia Burt was born 5/27/25 at Charkow, Ukraine, USSR. Her maiden name was Michailowitsch. She entered the United States on 6/4/52 at New York City, New York. She is a naturalized citizen, receiving certificate number 7256793 in the District Court of Geary County, Kansas. No further information about her was available. Her alien registration number is unknown.

On 12/9 and 16/63 (Dallas report of SA Robert P. Gemberling, 12/23/63, pages 729 and 740) Marina Oswald advised that in October, 1961, she visited an aunt in Kharkov who was called Polina Mikhailova.

In view of what may be the same last name and despite the difference in first names of Marina Oswald's aunt in Kharkov and Mrs. Burt's mother in that city, the Bureau believes the following investigation should be undertaken:

WFO review records at Central Office, INS, for all information on Mrs. Lydia Burt. Advise particularly of the names of any relations of Mrs. Burt set out in the file, paying particular attention to the names of her parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Handle immediately and submit results to Bureau and Dallas so Marina Oswald may be reinterviewed.

why?

Dallas, upon receipt of background information from WFO on Burt, reinterview Marina Oswald. Question her about aunt, Polina Mikhailova, and her uncle, Yuri Mikhailova. Ask her also about Valentine Yurievich Mikhailova, the son of these people. Ask her if she knows anyone named Vava, Olechka, Marusya, or Olya. Ask her if, in 1958, she was sending money to this aunt. It is noted an envelope was found in the personal effects of Lee and Marina Oswald (Dallas report of SA Robert Gemberling, 3/10/64, page 38, item 159) addressed to M.N. Oswald in Kharkov, Trinkler Drive, House 5, Apartment 7 (Michailovs). Ask her if this was the 1961 address of her aunt and uncle and if they ever lived at another address in Kharkov. Interview her thoroughly about this so as to determine positively whether any relationship exists between her aunt and the mother of Mrs. Burt. As noted above, exercise caution in any use of the information from Bureau Source 200 to prevent Marina Oswald or any unauthorized person from becoming aware that we have knowledge of the contact between Irina Mikhaylovich and Captain and Mrs. Burt. Handle promptly and submit results in report form.

why?

NOTE:

The information from Bureau Source 200 is from Hunter Report Number 11864, Item 58J18AT. In furnishing this Hunter Report, CIA noted the possible relationship of Marina Oswald's aunt and Mrs. Burt's mother. Despite the variance in spelling of the names, it is believed we should run this out and we can probably do this through the interview of Marina Oswald.

[end quote and end document]

My own research notes and observations:

- (1) The agency file number 105-82555-3578 can be located in the text of yet another RIF by searching under the "enter terms" field -- yielding an entirely different document (124-10245-10030 KC 105-1736-75). While the original document just quoted is from the FBI HQ series, the latter is from the KC (Kansas City office) file series. I requested BOTH documents (as I often do over the objections of NARA staff who insist I am needlessly draining my account) and spotted some intriguing differences.
- (2) The NARA data base search (still) brings up a RIF for the HQ document that was last reviewed on 2/8/94. At that point in time, the classification was SECRET, REFERRED, RELEASED WITH DELETIONS, APPROVAL OF US ARMY, and REFERRED TO US ARMY. The RIF for the KC document brings up a last review on 04/29/94 with classification of UNCLASSIFIED, REFERRED, RELEASED WITH DELETIONS, APPROVAL OF ARMY, and REFERRAL TO ARMY. The KC RIF shown on the NARA page I get on the 'Net also shows "Referred to CIA" under comments.
- (3) The RIFs I got attached to the documents both have last review dates of 9/13/95 and everything is listed as open in full. (The army rolled over in early September, according to a stamp -- no doubt the issue was Burt's military serial id number).
- (4) But the major difference between the HQ document and the KC document is that the KC document is only 2 pages and did not contain the "NOTE" quoted above about the Hunter report, which comprised the third page of the HQ document. This must have been why the (out of date RIFs still in use on the 'Net) had the one document as SECRET as of 1994, but not the other. (Otherwise, the text is identical)
- (5) While the KC document is just the clean 2-page memo without the NOTE, the HQ documents has visible all sorts of fascinating hand-written notations, like "Current Marking per CIA letter 9/23/88" and "will remain as is per CIA letter 9/23/88" and "made 1/3/89 #6484"
- (6) Geary County, Kansas, where Mrs. Burt was naturalized, is immediately south of the Fort Riley military installation.